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Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

Republic of Texas Paper Money

((Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY.)

By R. C. CRANE.

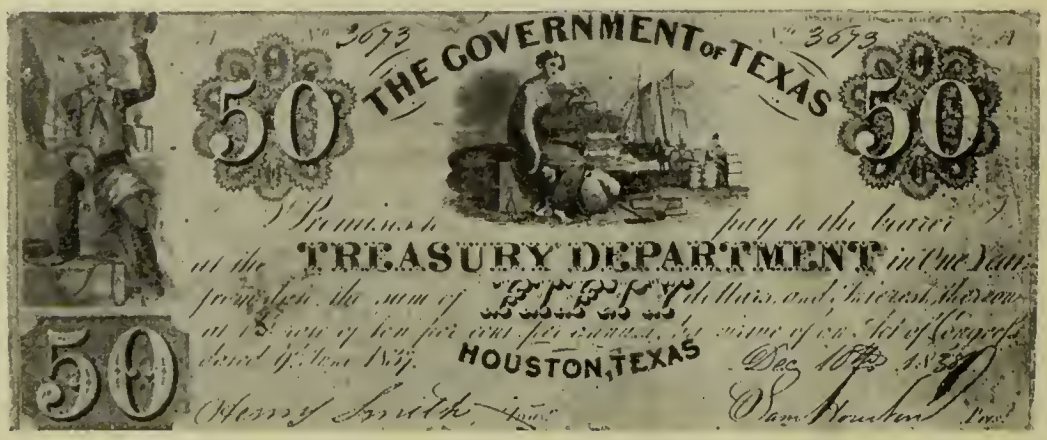
Texas has the distinction among other things of being the only state in the Union that had a separate existence as an independent government before coming into the Union of States. No one can read the history of the early settlement of Texas and the manner in which it achieved its independence in 1836, without being thrilled with admiration for the Texans, who succeeded in throwing off the yoke of Mexican domination. To the casual student of Texas history, it may be known that when the first authorized Anglo-Saxon settlements were undertaken in 1821, Spain was supreme in Mexico, and that the settlement of Texas was undertaken by virtue of concessions granted by Spain in 1820, first to Moses Austin and at his death renewed to his son, Stephen F. Austin, and that in 1824, Mexico, having succeeded in throwing off the Spanish yoke, became supreme over the territory that now includes Texas.

Very similar in its beginning was the struggle of the Texans against the tyranny of the Mexican government to that of the original thirteen colonies against the misgovernment of George III of England. The beginning of the Texas struggle was not for complete independence from the Mexican government, but to have wrong righted, and while this strug gle against wrong had been going on for something like two years before Texas independence was adopted, March 2, 1836, yet within two months of the adoption of the Declaration of Texas Independence, the battle of

San Jacinto had been fought and the independence of Texas was secured.

The achievement of independence found Texas an independent republic modeled on the Constitution and government of the United States, as its

But from 1836 until Texas was admitted into the Union in 1845, the government of Texas was run on the basis of paper money, and quite naturally the discount on it in circulation became very heavy. When Texas



citizenship had been drawn from nearly every State of the Union. There were not then in operation any gold or silver mines in Texas, and it was necessary for the running of the government for Texas to issue and depend upon paper money almost exclusively. To finance the war against Mexico and to settle the debts growing out of that war, it had been neces-

was admitted into the Union it claimed sovereignty over practically all of New Mexico, and by the terms of its admission it retained all of its public domain within its readjusted boundaries, and for the consideration of $10,000,000 paid by the United States, it waived all of its rights and claims to New Mexico. By the terms of Texas admission, this $10,000,000

sary to issue what was termed Land Script, and Texas sent special agents to different parts of the United States vested with authority to sell this script. The purchaser of this script had the right to locate it on any unlocated public domain within the bounds of Texas and millions of acres of land were thus disposed of.

was to be used, as far as necessary, in taking up and paying off the paper money which had been issued by the Republic of Texas. It was not supposed that all of this $10,000,000 was necessary, but the United States government retained a large part of it for the purpose of paying off directly this Texas debt, and all of this Texas

money that could be called in and thus cancelled and paid off was taken up before the Civil War came on. However, in about 1898, the late ex-Governor Hogg of Texas after he had gone out of office discovered that in the final adjustment of accounts between Texas and the United States government there still remained a balance in the United States treasury to the credit of Texas about $100,000. This sum was appropriated by Congress and paid over to Texas, but it was subsequently discovered that there was an error in the accounting to the extent of about $50,000. The Texas Legislature appropriated the money thus acquired from the United States government to the cancellation of the paper money against the Republic of Texas then outstanding, and the fund for that purpose was thus exhausted. The last Legislature passed a special appropriation to pay off a $100 bill issued by the Republic, and which was held by some near relative of a solider of the Republic.

Several years since the writer inquired of one of the largest dealers in curios, paper money, etc., in the United States as to what was the probable market value of bills issued by the Republic of Texas. The reply came that none of these bills had ever been seen or handled and their value was unknown. The writer has a series of these bills running from $1 to $50, and issued in 1838 to 1841 under the administration of Gen. Sam Houston and President M. B. Lamar. The most of these bills were engraved in

New York and according to the best of the engraver's art at that time, and all of them are signed by the then President of the Republic of Texas, and are payable one year or twelve months from their date. Those issued under the act of the Texas Congress of June 9, 1837, bear 10 per cent interest per annum. The writer has in his collection of paper money in all ten of these bills, of which no two are alike, and some of which he could have cashed at their face value when there was money in the treasury of the State for their payment. The writer prizes these bills very highly and knows of no one in or out of Texas with a larger collection of this money.

Large Increase in Gold Coinage in England.

There was a large increase in the gold coinage of England last year. Sovereigns and half-sovereigns to the value of £20,951,000 were issued by the royal mint in 1907, an increase of £8,786,000 on the issue for 1906.

Aluminium coins, for use in Uganda and the Nigeria Protectorates, were struck for the first time.

The total number of coins struck during 1907 was: Imperial coinage, 128,606,058; colonial, 31,872,134, a total of 160,478,192. The total for 1906 was 112,884,817.

Letter From a Young Collector to His Uncle

Dear Uncle George:

Your letter has been a great help to me and has filled me with enthusiasm. The first thing that I did was to go to a local die-sinker and give him an order for some tokens to commemorate my becoming a collector. He showed me, while there, some tokens he had just struck for some one else. I persuaded him to sell me the entire edition, so to speak, so that I could corner the market and control the issue of these especial pieces. They will do first rate for exchanges.

I also had him strike me some with various reverses that he had in the shop. I am going to have one struck in gold, and put it in an auction sale, so that it will bring a fancy price because it is unique. As I am but a yearling in numismatic lore, tell me if I have done right.

Now, about buying coins at auction sales. Is it quite a square deal for a dealer to charge you 5 or 10 per cent for buying coins for you at his own auction? I should think that he would be only too glad to buy them for you without charging any commission, especially the coins that have been sold since I have been getting their catalogues. Can it be that they really need the money, or do they not charge the seller any commission?

Tell me, do you stand better in the good graces of an auction dealer if you bid on things other than coins in their sales? If so, I will send in small sympathetic bids on jewelry, mounted or unmounted; almanacs, songsters, brass candlesticks, and Malay bolos. There was one thing that I did want to bid on once, and that was an antique nursing bottle of curious design.

Now for the condition of coins. Is a coin "good" when it is good only in spots, and what do cataloguers mean when they say "good for coin," and how rare is "excessively rare?" Is it rarer than "extremely rare and desirable," and if so, why? Where do they get all the lots of "poor and holed" that they say are suitable for study? Do you think these ever really formed part of a collection—and after one has studied these what can be done with them? I am really anxious to know, as our milkman refuses to take any more. Much obliged for your advice about rarities. I was beginning to think that common coins were as scarce as privates in the Revolutionary Army, as the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution all seem to get in the societies on the strength of their ancestors having been officers.

Would you advise me to subscribe for priced catalogues? I consider I can put six dollars to better use by buying good coins than by taking priced catalogues for a year. Why could they not send printed lists of prices realized to all buyers at a sale? I notice the dealer you spoke of does so, and I shall certainly send him some bids for his next sale. He alone, however, encourages the beginner in this way.

How soon after a sale should I expect to receive coins that have fallen to my bids? When it is over two weeks before I receive them, what do you think is the reason? Have they been sent to some one else, returned to dealer as unsatisfactory, and then sent on to me, or does it really take so long to get them ready to ship?

Am I justified under any circumstances in returning any lots sent me from a sale? Of course if I bid on a 1796 half-dollar, described as "excessively fine," and found, when I received it, that a large hole had destroyed the last figure in date, I should want to return it; but if the coins are as described, satisfactory

in every way—but I imagine I have bid too much—have I any right to treat them as if sent on approbation, and return them to the dealer?

What do you think of specializing, and what series would you recommend? Would it be wrong to collect the same series that another has collected for years; could he object if I did? I should like to collect coins having a ship on them, if it were allowed; if not, I should prefer the so-called Blacksmith's series.

Tell me, Uncle, would it be proper for me to write to President Roosevelt and give my opinion of the new gold coins? I am hardly an experienced numismatist yet, but that he would not know. I might get a reply from him, and the newspapers might print my letter.

I wrote Mr. Chase the other day and also Mr. Wood, and I have had a perfect shower of numismatic literature and application blanks ever since. Mr. Wood wrote me a very nice letter, and I think that I will join the A. N. A. He must be a nice, kind old man, as his signature is very wabbly.

Very truly, JOHN.

It affords us pleasure to inform our readers that we shall publish in our next number the excellent article on the "Origin of Coins," translated from old French and Latin authors, and especially prepared for this journal by Rev. Thos. P. Kelly.

Mehl's sixth auction sale was somewhat delayed. The catalogue is now out and the date of sale is March 14 There is a fine lot of stuff offered in this sale. Send in your bids NOW. A printed list showing prices realized at this sale FREE to all bidders.

Owing to the large demand for the January number of the Monthly, this number is entirely exhausted and we will gladly pay 10c per copy. Those having received more than one copy, or if not interested in same, will confer us a favor by returning the January number. Remittance will be promptly made for same.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks clippings from the following gentlemen: Seth C. Brown, Dr. Hassler, C. M. Dunnington, J. H. Geis, L. Payne W. Piedrit, E. W. Williams, Daniel Tompkins, Stephen Tayloe, Wm Poillon, A. N. A. Local Secretary for Ontario and Western Canada, California Post Card Magazine. These little favors are very much appreciated both by the publisher and readers, and we shall be more than pleased to hear from every one interested in our science with contributions on the subject. Articles treating on certain issues of coins are especially solicited and will be liberally paid for.

"Your Numismatic Monthly has already paid me for my subscription."—J. C. Mitchelson.

Accuracy is one of the most principal standards to which we are trying our best to bring this magazine up to, and notwithstanding out vigilance we note two errors in the February number which we beg to call atention to. The first was our omission in stating that the Sir Francis Drake medal was issued by the American Numismatic Society of New York. The other error appears in the "Letter from an Old Collector to His Nephew," where it refers to Mr.Wood as secretary of the American Numismatic Society. It should read, American Numismatic Association.

A one-anna piece, a pleasing little nickel coin, has just been issued from the Royal mint of England, for use in India. On the observe the King is represented wearing the crown, and on the reverse the value is given in five languages.

Our New Twenty-Dollar Gold Coins

A Humorous Description of Our New Beautiful Coins.

(From the Fort Worth Telegram.)

Two of the Roosevelt "anti-In God We Trust" coins are in Fort Worth. A Main street saloon keeper might have had a third, but he declined the medal style coin which is now quoted at a $28 market value, because he didn't think it was real money.

Coinage of the $20 pieces has been stopped, and they are advancing at an astonishing rate. G. H. Colvin, cashier of the American National Bank, has one of the coins and Sam Cowan, general attorney for the Texas Cattle Raisers' association, has another, obtained while on a trip to Washington.

Just why the $20 pieces have been taken from circulation is not clear. Report that there is no demand for the coins among the laboring classes because they will not stack may be at the bottom of it. Others maintain it is the deference to the protests of religious people against the omission of "In God We Trust."

The coins more nearly resemble medals than money. The milled edge of a coin is supplanted by E Pluribus Unum and thirteen stars run around the rim. Liberty, full front, in a cross between a Grecian classic drapery and an empire gown, stands a little to the southwest of the Roman dating MCMVII.

The eagle on the opposite side of the coin is too busy flying across its face to handle the thirteen leaved olive branch, so Liberty has been put to work. She takes to the job in great shape and waves the wand like the tall girl in the second grammar grade doing calisthenics.

The eagle and Liberty had a falling out of some sort before the coins were stamped. As punishment it has been decreed that either Baldy or the goddess must be upside down. If you put Liberty on her feet the eagle performs the remarkable feat of flying on his back. If you turn the bird around like an well-behaved official bird should be, Liberty needs the hoops the dainty acrobats use to worry the front row.

Space the cartoonist didn't have time to fill in before going to press has been deeply reamed out, giving the coin the proper Rocky mountain effect. Fitted with a handle it would serve admirably as a demi tasse.

However, you needn't accept the coin if you don't want to. If somebody shoves one at you just remark that they won't stack and walk away before he recovers.

The coin is certainly a curiosity, but then, most any $20 gold coin is.

Notwithstanding the above, the new $20 gold coins are, by far, the most beautiful issued by the United States.

In a recent editorial "Collier's" had the following to say in regard to these coins:

"The attacks on Mr. Roosevelt indulged in by the Wall street press ex-

tend to more absurd indirection than could easily be thought. The co-operation of the President with Augustus Saint-Gaudens must be part cause of the insane censure of the new coins. A judgment of this kind gets started, and then it is tossed about by thousands who have never seen the coins, or who, having seen them, form no independent judgment, but merely discharge the opinion with which they have been already loaded. Some there are, no doubt, whose taste, even if it were left free play, would much prefer the conventional, overloaded, and stupid designs; but many of the loudest critics must know better. The coins are beautiful, dignified and fitting. We know of none in modern times by which they are surpassed."

Patterns Struck at the Royal Mint for Canada

By R. W. McLACHLAN.

Patterns, among numismatists stand for a series of coins usually struck in limited numbers as samples to be submitted for designs when a new coinage, or other change in the circulating medium, is contemplated. They are sometimes produced by engravers, seeking positions in the mint, as specimens of their handiwork, or by firms tendering for a coinage which the mint, for some reason or other, is unable to undertake. There are instances wherein the whole of a new coinage has been condemned and melted down before any part thereof had got into circulation. Consequently, patterns, as a rule, are coins that have never been put into circulation.

Although some patterns are by no means rare, most of those emanating from the royal mint, London, owing to the care exercised by the authorities, are very rare and are usually found in proof condition. They are as a consequence, much sought after by collectors and command high if not extravagant prices.

Until a few years ago, only five or six of such coins having any relation to Canada were known to Canadian collectors. They had been snapped up by British collectors of colonial coins as soon as they were offered, and hidden away in their cabinets before any one on this side of the Atlantic had a chance to learn of their existence. But through the dispersion of the Montague, Murdoch and other extensive collections, some twenty-five varieties have come to our knowledge, a number of which have been secured by the more enthusiastic Canadian numismatists.

As no list of these patterns has ever been prepared, and believing that such a list would be of interest to many who have taken up the study of Canadian coins, I propose to publish one here, with such historical notes and comments as may seem to me to be helpful to the students of the series. This seems all the more necessary as those who have prepared works on Canadian coins have in a great measure overlooked even the heretofore known varieties.

1 Obv. GEOR : IV D : G : BRI : REX. laureated and draped bust of George IV to the left.
Rev. COLONIAL 1823. A wreath of oak leaves enclosing 1/50 | DOLLAR; bronze, size 34 millimeters.

1 Obv. As last.
Rev. Similar to last except that the wreath encloses 1/100 | DOLLAR; bronze, size 26 m.m.

These are patterns regarding which Christmas claims in the Numismatic Chronicle of 1862 that: "In the years

1822-1823 an attempt seems to have been made to institute one universal coinage for the British colonies in the terms of dollars and cents." The Spanish dollar was at that time the main circulating medium of many of these colonies, both in the east and west, and to make the necessary change the dollar was often cut into halves, quarters, eights, and even sixteenths. With the view of preventing this mutilation, a coinage of ¼, ⅛ and 1/16 dollars was issued for Mauritius in 1820, and a similar one in 1822 for the West Indies, with the addition of the half dollar. These have been claimed by some writers as Canadians. It was no doubt following the idea suggested by this colonial silver coinage that these bronze patterns were issued and possibly these helped in the adoption of a decimal coinage for the present provinces of the Dominion, but the suggestion was not carried out until thirty-five years later. Both denominations are to be found in Messrs. T. Wilson's and Gravel's collections.

PROVINCE OF CANADA.

3 Obv. VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA CANADA. Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left.

Rev. 20 | CENTS | 1858 within a wreath consisting of nine maple leaves, two rose leaves and two double maple seeds on each side; silver, size 23 m.m.

This differs from the regular issue on the reverse only. The figures of the date and value and the leaves are larger than the regular issue, which has no rose leaves or seed pods. This reverse was afterwards adopted for that of the twenty-cent piece of New Brunswick, issued in 1862 and 1864. In my own collection.

4 Obv. VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA CANADA; coronated head of Queen Victoria to the left within an inner circle.

Rev. ONE | CENT | 1858 within an inner circle. Outside of the circle is a wreath of maple leaves with their apexes all pointing outwards, a seed pod between each leaf; bronze, size 23 m.m.

This patterns differs both in size and design from the one adopted. In it the queen's head is coronated while the wreath is altogether different. The size although most convenient, was not acceptable, as in the dark it could have been easily passed for a twenty-cent piece. Only two specimens known, one of which is in Mr. T. Wilson's collection and the other is in England.

5 Obv. Same as last.

Rev. Plain, bronze, size 23 m.m.

As scarce as the last, there are specimens in Messrs. Gravel and T. Wilson's collections.

6 Obv. VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA CANADA. Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left within an inner circle.

Rev. ONE | CENT | 1858 within an inner circle and a circle of maple leaves; nickle, size 25 m.m.

This varies from the regular issue only in the metal in which it was struck. There appears to have been some suggestion taken from the example of the United States in 1857, that nickel should have been adopted. But the old fashioned bronze of the Romans, which had been reintroduced into France, some years previously, was adopted, in this leading the mother country by two years. It was substituted for copper in Great Britain in 1860. Most countries adopting a nickle miner coinage employ a much thicker flan, that it may not be

passed for silver. It is in my own collection.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

7 Obv. VICTORIA D : G : REG : BRITT : F : D : Laureated and draped bust of Queen Victoria to the left.

Rev. NOVA - SCOTIA ONE CENT 1861. A heavy wreath of roses and rose leaves enclosing a crown; bronze, size 25 m.m.

8 Obv. Same as last.

Rev. As last, except that the last figure in the date is wanting; bronze, size 25 m.m.

9 Obv. Same as No. 7.

Rev. As No. 7, except the value, which is HALF CENT; bronze, size 20 m.m.

No specimen of either of the cents are to be found in Canada, but the half cent is in Mr. T. Wilson's and in my own collection. This is one of the instances where a design was adopted and dies prepared for striking a coinage which was rejected before it was completed. This fact is testified to by the die on which the last figure of the date is missing, any number of dies can be made from it, upon which the last figure can be punched in to produce a new coinage each year, when it changed. Then, too, there are several pairs of the completed dies in the mint museum. In case of an ordinary pattern, only one pair would have been made. The reason for its rejection can easily be seen when it is known that shortly before this the trailing arbutus or mayflower was adopted as the emblem of Nova Scotia, and appeared on the penny and halfpenny pieces of 1856. The rejected design displayed no mayflower, while the regular one does.

10 Obv. Similar to No. 7, but the letters in the inscription and the bust are larger.

Rev. ONE CENT at top and NOVA SCOTIA at the bottom, a wreath of roses and leaves and mayflowers inclosing a crown and the date 1861; bronze, size 25 m.m.

11 Obv. Similar to No. 9, but letters and bust are larger.

Rev. As last, except the value which is HALF CENT; bronze, size 20 m.m.

The cent is in Mr. Wilson's and my own collection. No specimen of the half cent is known in Canada. The reverse is that of the regular issue, but the bust and lettering of the obverse, being larger, are not so attractive. The bust of Queen Victoria on the regular issue is the same as on the imperial coinage.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

12 Obv. VICTORIA D. G. REG. NEW BRUNSWICK. Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left.

Rev. 10 | CENTS | 1862 within a fret work border; silver, 18 m.m.

Two specimens known, one is in the collection of Mr. Gravel. This design somewhat modified appears on the silver coins of Newfoundland, first issued for circulation in 1865.

13 Obv. As No. 9, but the letters are smaller, while the neck and shoulders are more slender.

Rev. As No. 11, except that the name of the province, which is New Brunswick; bronze, size 20 m.m.

This, although not an authorized coin, can hardly be classed as a pattern, as it is comparatively common. It was never coined for or issued in New Brunswick, having been struck through mistake in the mint. The order for the new decimal coinage was received from the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at the same time, and as the former order

called for half cents, it was believed that this coin was required for both, and dies made accordingly Coins struck from the New Brunswick half cent, dies were sent out with those ordered from Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia standard differed from that of New Brunswick in recognizing the pound sterling as worth $5, hence the need of half cents to make change for the sixpence which passed for 12½ cents.

14 Obv. Same as No. 12.
Rev. As No. 3, except the date, which is 1871: silver, size 23 m.m.

15 Obv. As No. 12.
Rev. 10 | CENTS | 1870 within a wreath of maple leaves above is a crown; silver, size 18 m.m.

16 Obv. As No. 12.
Rev. As last, but the date is 1875, and the value 5 cents; silver, size 14 m.m.

The 20-cent piece is in my collection. The two latter are unknown in Canada. I can not understand why patterns were struck at the royal mint for New Brunswick, after the province had entered into confederation and after a coinage had been struck for the whole dominion. I should have been inclined to class these as mules but for the fact that the reverse of the 20-cent piece of 1871 is from a special die, while Mr. Caldicott of London, in whose collection the two smaller pieces are to be found, claims that no mules are ever struck at the royal mint.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

17 Obv. Same as No. 3.
Rev. 20 | CENTS | 1871 within a wreath of maple leaves above is a crown; silver size 23 m.m.

In my own collection. I am also at a loss to know why this patterns was issued, except that there was at that time an inclination towards a reversion to the 20-cent piece, two years after it had been replaced by the 25-cent piece. The design is the same as the regular coinage of 1858.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

18 Obv. VICTORIA D. G. REG NEWFOUNDLAND. Laureated head of Queen Victoria to the left.
Rev. Wreath as on No. 15 enclosing TWO | DOLLARS | 1864 with a crown above; bronce, size 17½ m.m.

This pattern was rejected no doubt on account of its close resemblance in design to the 10-cent pieces of Canada and New Brunswick, which could easily have been gilt and passed off on the unwary.

19 Obv. Same as last.
Rev. TWO HUNDRED CENTS above, ONE HUNDRED PENCE below divided by ornamental designs on the right and left, 2 | DOLLARS | 1865 in block letters within an inner circle; bronze, size 17½ m.m.

This pattern differs from the regular issue in the size and form of the letters and figures in the value and date.

20 Obv. VICTORIA D. G. REGINA above NEWFOUNDLAND divided by a similar ornamental design to that on reverse of last.
Rev. As last but 2 | DOLLARS | 1870 is smaller and in Roman letters; gold, size 17½ m.m.

There was evidently some dissatisfaction with the design of the two-dollar piece on account of the number of patterns issued. None of them are to be found on this side of the Atlantic.

21 Obv. As No. 18.
Rev. As No. 15, except the date, which is 1864; bronze, size 23 m.m.

22 Obv. Same as 18.
Rev. As No. 15, except the date, which is 1864; bronze, size 14 m.m.

This would show that there was some intention to adopt the design of the New Brunswick silver coinage for that of Newfoundland, but variations in the design on the rejected pattern ten-cent piece of that province took its place. I have not heard of the existence of a ten-cent piece, and it would appear from the similarity of the two-dollar piece that no coinage of ten cents was contemplated.

In any case it has never been such a popular coin in Newfoundland as in Canada. These two patterns are not found in Canada.

23 Obv. VICTORIA QUEEN. Laureated bust of the queen to the left.
Rev. ONE CENT above, NEWFOUNDLAND below, a wreath of mayflowers enclosing a crown and the date 1864; bronze, 25 m.m.

This is a scarce design with the title of the queen in English, same as that found on the coinages of some of the British possessions in the east, only two specimens known, neither of which are found in Canada.

24 Obv. VICTORIA D : G : REG : Bust as on last.
Rev. Same as last; bronze, 25 m.m.

In Mr. T. Wilson's and my own collection. It would appear that the order for the new decimal coinage for Newfoundland was received late in 1864 and that a number of pattern dies were prepared that year, but the regular issue did not take place until 1865. This design differs only in date from the regular issue.

25 Obv. As No. 7, but the letters of the inscription are smaller and the bust more slender.
Rev. As No. 33, except the date, which is 1865; bronze, 25 m.m.

The obverse is the same as that on the Nova Scotia coinage and the reverse that of the regular issue. No specimen known in Canada.

These twenty-five specimens are all that are known to Canadians, but specimens of only twelve have reached Canada. The balance are found in one or more of the English cabinets. They have mainly come to our knowledge through descriptions in coin sales and through the courtesy of Mr. Caldecott of London.

Teddy Bear Money to Please Fancy of Children Plan.

Chicago, Ill.—The obsolete 2-cent piece has a defender and a mission.

It is the children's best coin, according to William H. Pease of Kansas City, who demands that they be coined with special designs. He says:

"I believe a coin valued at 2 cents, larger than the 1-cent piece and made of some bright metal, with a child's head on one side and a 'Teddy Bear' or some other design on the other side, would be popular with the children and better adapted for their use than the copper cent.

"The average child spends 5 cents for candy and 1 cent goes to the Sunday school—a total of 6 cents. With the 2-cent 'child's' coin I propose they could spend 2 cents for candy and 2 cents for the Sunday school—a total of 4 cents, a saving of 2 cents, a saving of teeth, a saving of souls advanced."

Finds of old coins continue to be reported. An old seventeenth century traders token found at Brentford was in exceptionally good preservation, and the inscription, "Henry Dawes in Rumford, 1668," was easily discernible. A Groat of Henry VIII was found at Middlewich, in Cheshire, and was a well-presedved specimen of that reign when the quality of silver coinage was so much decreased.

THE CHICAGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The forty-ninth monthly meeting of the above-named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, Feb. 7th, President Virgil M. Brand presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Carey, W. F. Dunham, McDonald, Tracy, Brand, Simpson, Excell, Leon, Blumenschein, Merrill, Chester Dunham, Huber, Holmes, Baker, Sorensen, Williams, Heissler and Green.

The resignations of Elmer S. Sears and Geo. Froelich were received and accepted. A communication was read from T. Louis Comparette, Curator of the Mint Cabinet at Philadelphia, expressing his kindly regard for the Society and offering some valuable suggestions. Messrs. Marvin A. Barlow and J. de Lagerberg were elected to membership.

Mr. Williams read a paper on specializing, and Mr. Brand read a paper on the Pilgrim's Rest mint, where the last of the official coins of the South African Republic were struck, and exhibited one of the pieces. Mr. Holmes showed English gold of the values from one-fourth to five guineas. Mr. W. F. Dunham exhibited the United States eagles from 1795 to 1804, all in superb condition.

The president installed in office J. B. Holmes, vice president; H. F. Williams, censor, and W. H. McDonald, a member of the executive board for 1908, these gentlemen having been absent from the last meeting. The president appointed Messrs. Holmes, Excell and Sorensen as a membership committee for 1908. An informal auction of medals netted $5.83 for the binding fund.

The following magazines were received since last report: Numismatist and Mehl's Numismatic Monthly for January and February; Philatelic West, Spink's Numismatic Circular, Numismatischer Verkehr and Numismatische Correspondenz for January; a catalog of Green's 36th auction and a catalog with fixed prices from Majer.

A motion was carried, authorizing the censor and executive board to issue a bulletin before next meeting of not less than four pages.

Adjourned to meet March 6th. BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

"I received your January sample copy of your magazine. It so often happens in a new publication that the editor exhausts his ability in his first issue that I waited for your second effort before forming an opinion.

"Your February number is at hand and I hasten to send in my subscription for fear that there will not be enough March copies to go round."

HOMER J. HENDRICKS,
Cherryvale, Kan.

No, brother Hendricks, I not only expect to keep up the standard of reading matter in this journal, but intend to improve it from time to time. And, thanks to the unexpected support received from the numismatists of the country, I might state here that within a short time—probably within a year—I shall offer to the numismatic world the finest and best numismatic journal ever published in the English language.

The Amenities of Coin Collectors

III.—Correspondence, Scientific Discussion.

The serious collector is under the necessity from time to time of expressing his ideas, and, as there are still many questions awaiting solution, when he has begun to study any one of these he desires to add his contribution. Hence arises the necessity first of all of intercourse with other collectors or with museums, then of scientific discussion in the periodicals. Whatever study may be taken up there arises the necessity of knowing what examples exist in other collections, and what are not to be found in one's own.

Every collector can address himself to a colleague or to a museum, making inquiries as to deciphering inscriptions or impressions of coins.

On applying to private persons one ought to be particular to explain the aim in view in making your request, so as to avoid encroaching upon any similar work that your colleague may have begun on his own account, or have had the intention of doing, though he may not have yet begun it.

All requests should be replied to promptly. It is always well to grant all that is within one's power, except in the case of requests which approach a field already taken into consideration, in which case a justifiable refusal is in no wise discourteous, and it would be wrong to consider it an affront.

However, replies, whether affirmative or negative, should always be prompt, because nothing is so crushing as to receive no answer, and there is no need to do to others what one does not desire for oneself.

To simple correspondence there follows scientific discussion, which is the most effective element of progression in all knowledge that is not positive but based chiefly on induction. It is chiefly in this discussion that the good education of the expert appears.

Discussion is good, it is even a very good thing, but it is absolutely necessary to adhere scrupulously to the rules of politeness and courtesy, and this is not always easy. Discussion ought to be to the point, courteous, and, above all, objective and impersonal. It should relate exclusively to the argument and never to persons. Right is generally a little on both sides. It may occasionally be entirely on one side, but that rarely happens, and it does not imply that the person in the wrong has less claim to the respect of his adversary. On another subject he may be in the right—hodie mihi cras tibi—and even in this it may be that the opinion pronounced today to be wrong, after fresh study or by means of new elements of judgment, may tomorrow rise in honor and be declared triumphant.

For these reasons each of the two parties ought to esteem the other and show it by courtesy of manner and by abstaining absolutely from, I will not say, insults, but from a too triumphant tone of victory, from too thorough-going condemnation of an adverse opinion, and especially from that suggestion of irony which always gives offence and never brings about any good practical result. When the discussion, instead of being objective, becomes personal, it can only sow hatred and disgust, turn the disputants from fruitful study and result in nothing useful to science. The few rules of courteous behavior which I have shortly pointed out form the chivalry of the collector, and are worthy of attention because a slight deviation from them may produce de-

plorable and irremediable consequences.

In order to inspire every one with whom this is likely to have dealings with the fullest confidence, a serious collector must surround himself with an aureole of honesty, fair play and courtesy. He must take every precaution to establish and maintain in regar to his name an assured reputation, and that is not done without a rigorous and continual observation of all the rules of chivalry and gentlemanly conduct.

An Amateur at a Great Coin Sale

(Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY.)

By Jos. H. Geis.

Being only a beginner in the collection of coins, but an enthusiastic one I resolved to attend as much as my time permitted one of the great auction sales of coins which took place last June in Philadelphia. It was the sale of the M. A. Stickney collection. June 25-29, 1907, arranged by Henry Chapman.

I managed to be present about an hour each day just before noon, when the collections to be sold that day were still on display. The arrange ment, the variety, the beauty and perfection of old coins there shown was indeed marvelous, and as I gazed at the long lines of gold, silver and copper coins of all countries and all ages I readily perceived why mortals who are blessed with the good fortune,good taste, acquisitiveness, persistence and fine distinction, can spend a whole lifetime in the pursuit of this hobby and always find in it that pleasure and that comfort which others get from multitudinous enjoyments. Coin collecting almost appears to me to be more of an old man's diversion, anyhow, as it seems to grow upon one after a lifetime of reading and booklore, when coins become a sort of ever present mark to indicate the epochs of time and events in history However, be that as it may, Mr Stickney certainly must have lived to a good old age, and no doubt derived an immense amount of enjoyment in the gradual accumulation, piece by piece, of the thousands of varieties and specimens of coins which were here shown for the first time to the general public. The first day's sales were early United States coins, at which the famous Brashers gold doubloon brought the enormous price of $6,200. On the second day I attended the sale accompanied by a friend who had never been at one and who became a most absorbed individual during its progress. The silver dollars were reached and we became interested. It went like this: 1794 $190; 1795, $12; 1797, $13, and so on, from two dollars and a half to eighteen, until the 1804 dollar was reached Then a hush came over the audience, a peculiar feeling of expectancy, an awed and strained feeling of intensity seemed to permeate the atmosphere of the room. Something in numismatics was about to happen; there was a clearance of throats. Soon a voice was heard: "Thousand I am bid — twelve hundred I am bid — fourteen — eighteen — twenty — twenty-two —" My friend, whose eyes were bulging, looked askance at me; then looked at the others as if he were in a dream! "Twenty-five—twenty-eight — thirty — thirty-two—thirty-five—" Everybody drew a breath! "Thirty-six — six — six — thirty-six —sold at thirty-six hundred dollars" —and the thing was over! My friend gently nudged me, inquired if there were any more dollars around at that

price, and then we two quietly arose, silently wended our way down the stairway out into the June breezes along Walnut street, and retired to a neighboring hostelry to ruminate over the peculiar conditions of world and mankind which make it a possibility to pay 3,500 per cent for the possession of an article which in itself was at one time worth but a dollar. Truly the science of numismatics is a fascinating and fastidious one and I shall never forget the eager looks, the exclamations of delight, the earnest longings of its devotees at that sale, not to speak of my own feeling of rapt attention and keen appreciation of the privilege of an insight into a field where I am but a novice.

Special attention is called to the number of original articles in this issue. We know that the numismatic field is not wide enough for a numismatic journal devoted to one certain class of readers. In this journal we endeavor to print items of interest to every "variety" of collector.

SWEDISH COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL AND COIN.

Recently Issued.

The above medal was issued by the Swedish Numismatic Society, commemorating the golden wedding of King Oscar II and Queen Sofia. Obverse: Conjoined busts of king and queen to right, KONUNG OSCAR II DROTTNING SOFIA. Reverse: Swedish arms, crowned; around MINNE AF GULDERSLLOPET DEN 6 JUNI, 1907. SWENSKA NUMISMATISKA FORENINGEN. "Remembrance of the Golden Wedding, June 6th, 1907. The Swedish Numismatic Society."

2-KRONER.

This coin was issued in commemoration of the same event as the above medal, but was struck by the government.

While it is a commemorative coin, yet it is a legal tender, similar to our commemorative coins—the Isabella quarter, Lafayette dollars, etc.

The above medal may be had at $5.00, and the 2 Kroner piece at $1.25, from B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas. Both pieces are beautiful in design and in mint state.

The American Numismatic Association has issued a small folder containing the names of the officers board of governors and local secretaries, together with the advantages and objects of the Association. Every collector of coins, not a member, is urged to join, and the extremely small number of resignations from this association is sufficient evidence of the good and benefits to be derived by membership to this Association. The above little folder and any other information desired will be gladly furnished by any of the secretaries.

Local Secretaries.

J. B. Chase, Jr., 91 Francis street Brookline, Mass.

Milton P. Lyons, 3323 Comberland avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. J. M. Henderson, 13½ East State street, Columbus, Ohio.

Theo. E. Leon, 350 West Sixty-ninth street, Chicago, Ill.

Dr. F. A. Hassler, Santa Anna, Cal.

B. Max Mehl, P. O. Box No. 826, Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. E. G. Corteau, St. Jacques, P. Q

S. S. Heal, 22 Larch street, Toronto Ont.

Aluminium Money.

For the first time in its history the royal mint last year used aluminum for coinage purposes. In all 31,872,134 coins were struck from this metal, these comprising half-cent pieces for use in Uganda, and one-tenth of a penny pieces for circulation in the Nigerian Protectorates.

A good deal of imperial silver finds its way to the west coast of Africa much of it going into Northern Nigeria. Bronze coins also circulate to some extent on the coast, but it is very rare for them to be met with in the interior. In these regions the little shells known as cowries, the value of which is continually fluctuating, being highest in the remoter districts, have hitherto formed the medium of exchange.

"It is hoped that these small aluminium coins will gradually take their place as the medium for exchange," stated Mr. Ellison-Macartney, deputy master of the mint, yesterday. "They have a fixed value, which ought to be of great advantage to the native as well as to the general trade of the country."

Mr. Macartney explained that the low value of the coins and the immense number of them required rendered it necessary to make them of some extremely light metal—hence the adoption of aluminum. "The smaller the amount the greater the cost of coinage," he remarked. "Halfpence are much more costly to coin than pennies, and yield far less profit. So far as I know, these are the only aluminum coins in the world."

Both the new coins are perforated in the center to permit the natives to string them together as has been their custom with the cowries from time immemorial.—London Daily Mail.

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